

THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
ASHBY WOULD.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
For the Year 1919.

RODERIC LOGAN, M.R.C.S., ENG.,

Medical Officer of Health.

March 1920.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH,

March, 1920.

To the Urban District Council of Ashby Woulds.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report upon the Sanitary state of your District for the year 1919.

Tables of death, new cases of infectious disease, and Vital Statistics are appended.

The Vital Statistics are calculated per 1,000 persons living.

ASHBY WOULD'S URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

1. Elevation of District from 285 to 437 O.D.

GEOLOGY—Coal Measures, Pottery and Brick Clay.

AREA—Land, 1939 acres. Water, 39 acres. Total, 1978 acres.

	Census, 1901,	Census, 1911	Estimated 1919.
Population ...	2799	2783	2968
Inhabited Houses	529	577	—

New Houses erected during the year—None.

Rateable Value, £16,978. Assessable Value, £13,248.

General District Rate, 2/- in the £.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate	General Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality.
19'4	10'1	65

Epidemic Diseases Death Rate.	Phthisis Death Rate.
0'6	1'6

Influenza Death Rate.
2'02

ENGLAND AND WALES, FOR 1919.

Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Death Rate.
18'5	13'8	89

Occupations. Coal Mining, Pottery and Agriculture are the chief industries.

Burton, Derby and Leicester Infirmaries are all supplied with cases from the District.

Water Supply. Practically the whole district is now supplied by the Ashby and Swadlincote Water Company from their Waterworks on the Trent watershed at Milton. The water is good, not plumbo-solvent, and artificially softened to some extent. Owing to the defective well supply I advised your Council in 1912 to extend the Ashby and Swadlincote mains so as to supply the whole district, and this has been carried out.

Rivers and Streams. There is no pollution of water-courses of any consequence in the district.

Drainage and Sewage. The Outfall works at Occupation Road consist of two tanks and two percolating filters (with revolving arm) and one contact bed for storm overflow. This receives the sewage of Albert Village and Occupation Road.

There is a precipitation tank and small filter bed at Swain's Park to deal with the sewage from the few houses at that point.

The Outfall works at Donisthorpe Lane, one precipitation tank and two percolating filters (revolving arm distributors), are connected up with the sewer from Moira School and Stone Row. They have been enlarged in order to deal with this increased quantity of sewage.

A few houses below Stone Row are below the level of this sewer and still discharge their sewage into a small precipitating tank.

New Row, Newfields, is sewered to a closed tank in the old clay pits, and Old Row sewage is collected in a closed tank below the gardens, the overflow being irrigated in a long open ditch.

The sewage of Rawdon Terrace is discharged into a small stream, which loses itself in marshy land.

Owing to the Housing Scheme and the estimated provision of 80 or more houses, the present outfall will have to be considerably increased. Col. Walker, your consulting engineer, has prepared plans for this work, which have been approved by your Council.

Owing to the varying levels of the district and the constant interception of railway and canal between detached groups of houses, it is not possible to have one general scheme of sewerage, but Newfields and Rawdon Terrace might be connected with the Donisthorpe Lane outfall.

Closet Accommoda- tion.	Privy Middens.	Pail Closets.	W.Cs.	Slop Water C.
	563	7	8	—

6 houses have been converted from Privy Middens to W.Cs., or from Pail Closets to W.Cs.

4 defective Privies have been improved, and 2 converted to Pail Closets.

Scavenging.

The district is entirely scavenged by contractors, working under the Council's supervision by the Sanitary Inspector. Three contractors are employed, but there is no regular rule for the emptying of P.Ms. It is done about three times a year in Albert Village, and about twice a year in Moira, where the P.Ms. are much more capacious. The night-soil is disposed of on the land, and the ashes in a tip. The cost of scavenging the district is £166 10s. 0d.

The scavenging has never been other than most unsatisfactory, and I strongly advise your Council to undertake this work with your own paid servants. The sanitary condition of this district will never be satisfactory until the scavenging is efficiently carried out. The substitution of w.cs. for privy middens on existing properties would largely lessen the existing nuisances and also the necessary scavenging.

Sanitary
Inspection.

All the working-class dwellings in the district have been inspected. They are generally in bad repair, provision for storing food is frequently very bad. Privy middens and ash-heaps generally constitute marked nuisance to health, and are constantly over full owing to very defective scavenging. There are twenty cases of overcrowding, but these cannot be dealt with until new houses are erected. Forty houses are practically unfit for habitation, and twenty others are in such bad repair as hardly to be worth improving. There is need for about eighty new houses, and plans have been submitted for a provision of that number. So far several sites have been inspected, but the site near Whitehouses, Moira, which would accommodate about eighty houses, is the most suitable. The Peter Street area is so insanitary and the condition of the property so bad, that this area should be scheduled as an unsatisfactory area to be dealt with as such when the New Housing Scheme has been completed.

Under the Dairies and Cowsheds Orders the Regulations have been adopted, and a Veterinary Inspector appointed. There are 23 milksellers registered, and 9 dairymen who make butter only. 92 inspections have been made, three premises required white-washing, and repairs to one dairy, which have been carried out.

There are 3 slaughter-houses, of which only two are in use.

There are no lodging houses, underground bake-houses or offensive trades in the district.

No sample of water has been sent for analysis this year.

Food.
Milk Supply.

There are 16 cowkeepers on the Register, and about 80 cows are kept. There are no milksellers who are not cowkeepers. The milk produced is almost entirely consumed in the district and very little is imported

into the district. No case of tuberculous udders has been reported to me. The cubic space per cow in the sheds average about 400 cubic feet. This is much too little, 600 being the minimum desirable. 8 inspections have been made and 4 premises required washing, 2 structural improvements and 4 sanitary improvements. 11 of the cowkeepers' premises are supplied from wells and the rest from mains. 9 of the milksellers are also makers of butter.

Other Foods. 8 inspections of premises have been made. No unsound food has been found. The condition of the bakehouses is satisfactory, also of the slaughterhouses. There are no special arrangements made for the inspection of meat, but inspection of the premises is usually undertaken at killing time, when the carcasses are also inspected. No case of tuberculosis in meat has been found.

Factories and Workshops. The sanitary arrangements are satisfactory. 4 have been found defective and have been remedied after issue of notice. I have received one list of outworkers—seven in number. One case of tuberculosis occurred in the house of one worker, the house was disinfected after death. The outworkers are all engaged in knitting socks. No case of infectious disease has been notified in homes of outworkers.

The sanitary administration of the district is carried out by the Medical Officer, the Sanitary Inspector, who is the officer appointed under the Housing and Town Planning Act, and the Veterinary Inspector.

Infectious Disease. Scarlet fever has occurred in 6 cases spread over the whole year. No case was removed to the Hospital.

There was an outbreak of Diphtheria during the autumn in Albert Village and Occupation Lane. 11 cases were notified—all of children and mostly of school age. I visited the district several times and obtained the assistance of the County Medical Officer in

taking swabs from the school children at Albert Village Council School. All contacts were examined and excluded from school. No carriers were found. Every case was treated with Antitoxin supplied free of charge to the medical attendants. Only two deaths occurred, probably due to the prompt use of Antitoxin.

54 cases of Measles were notified, but the disease was of a mild type. More precautions are taken by parents in these cases nowadays and no death occurred.

4 cases of Tuberculosis of Lungs were notified and one case of Disease of the Glands.

In consequence of the prevalence of Influenza in the early months of the year, 7 cases of Primary Pneumonia and 8 of Influenzal Pneumonia were notified under the new regulation of the Ministry of Health. It is satisfactory to record that only one death from Pneumonia was registered, but the 6 deaths notified as Influenzal were probably all due to Pneumonia.

4 cases of Erysipelas were notified. No case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum or of Puerperal Fever have been notified.

In conclusion, I beg to call attention to the question of the Scavenging and beg your Council to undertake this work at an early date.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RODERIC LOGAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Causes of Death in Ashby Woulds Urban District, 1919.

CAUSES OF DEATH Civilians only.						Males.	Females.
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	22	17
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Disases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...		2
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility, &c.	...	...	...	...	...		1
Violence, apart from Suicide	...	...	...	...	...
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Special Causes (included above):							
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:							
Total	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...		1
TOTAL BIRTHS	...	...	...	...	...	37	24
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	36	23
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
POPULATION:							
For Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	3092	
„ Death „	...	...	...	...	...	2968	